Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MONTEV 00590 111531Z ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 L-03 HEW-06 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 OIC-02 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 ARAE-00 /069 W

O R 111432Z FEB 77 FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO TO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE SECSTATE WASHDC 3205 INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

UNCLAS MONTEVIDEO 0590

USIA FOR ILA, IOP/M

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, OAS, UY
SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION TO U.S. STATEMENT ON HUMAN
RIGHTS AT CIECC CONFERENCE

REF: (A) MONTEVIDEO 485, (B) STATE 29000

1. SUMMARY. U.S. STATEMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS AT CIECC CONFERENCE RECEIVED BROAD MEDIA COVERAGE WITH ALL MAJOR PAPERS CARRYING FULL TEXT OF WHITE'S REMARKS. WHILE EDITORIALS HAVE NOT YET APPEARED, SEVERAL HEADLINES PLAYED UP U.S. "POSITIVE REACTION" TO PREVIOUS STATEMENT BY GOU MINISTER DARRACQ. USIS MEDIA SOURCES REPORT SOME GOU CONFUSION AS TO HOW DARRACQ SHOULD REACT, IN TURN, IN HIS CLOSING STATEMENT TO CONFERENCE. HEAVY COVERAGE UNDERLINED GOU'S APPARENT WILLINGNESS TO DEAL WITH HUMAN RIGHTS AS AN URUGUAYAN PROBLEM RATHER THAN A PHILOSOPHICAL MATTER AS IN THE PAST. END SUMMARY

2. U.S. STATEMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS AT CIECC CONFERENCE UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 MONTEV 00590 111531Z

WAS GIVEN HEAVY PLAY BY PRESS, RADIO AND TELEVISION. AFTER-NOON TABLOID, MUNDOCOLOR, A FEW HOURS AFTER WHITE'S STATE-MENT ON FEBRUARY 10, PUBLISHED EXCERPTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS BUT LEAD PARA PLAYED UP CARTER ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT FOR MAINTAINING VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION IN 1978. ALL THREE MAJOR MORNING DAILIES CARRIED FULL TEXT OF STATEMENT. EL PAIS HEADLINE SAID, "U.S. EMPHASIZES URUGUAYAN STATEMENT". SUB-

HEADING QUOTED WHITE AS SAYING DARRACQ WAS RIGHT IN MENTION-ING "THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN VALUES" (SEE REFTEL A FOR DARRACQ STATEMENT). EL DIA'S FRONT PAGE HEADLINE READ, "EDUCATION DEMANDS PROTECTION OF CERTAIN FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF HUMAN SOCIETY", WHILE LA MANANA HEADLINED, "WHITE HIGHLIGHTED MINISTER DARRACQ'S SPEECH IN THE CIECC". THERE HAS BEEN NO EDITORIAL COMMENT TO DATE.

3. CONTACTS WITH GOU OFFICIALS HAVE NOT BROUGHT FORTH COMMENT AS YET. HOWEVER, WORKING PRESS TOLD DELEGATION AND USIS OF THEIR ENTHUSIASM AND APPRECIATION FOR STATEMENT. SAME SOURCES REPORT THAT MILITARY REACTION MIXED AND THAT THERE IS SOME CONFUSION IN GOU AS TO HOW EDUCATION MINISTER DARRACQ SHOULD REACT TO WHITE'S COMMENTS IN HIS (DARRACQ'S) SPEECH TO CLOSING CIECC SESSION ON FEBRUARY 11. IN ANY EVENT, IT IS CLEAR THAT GOU, WHICH ITSELF CHANGED LOCAL TREATMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS FROM GENERAL PHILOSOPHICAL TOMES TO ONE OF DEALING WITH AN URUGUAYAN PROBLEM, IS CONTINUING TO PERMIT FULL MEDIA COVERAGE.

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Message Attributes

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Subject: MEDIA REACTION TO U.S. STATEMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS AT CIECC CONFERENCE TAGS: SHUM, SOPN, UY, US, OAS, CIECC To: USIA STATE

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